



January 2021 Recipients

CONGRATULATIONS!

Wendy Dinesen - Special Education Teacher

"There is no one more deserving of this award than Wendy! Her dedication, understanding and passion for our kiddos and staff are exceptional. She has gone above and beyond in meeting the needs of her students during the last several months. Her virtual teaching is extremely professional and has kept everyone connected during the trials of COVID and Learning. She is one of the most understanding and flexible teachers, her passion for teaching shows in everything she does. Thank you for that bubbly smile, friendly and positive personality - we appreciate you very much."

Kristin Lieser - Technology Support Assistant

"Kristin is Awesome!!! She is always helpful and amazing at helping everyone. We would be lost at the ELC's without Kristin. No matter when an issue arises or what the issue is, Kristin is happy to help me and other staff. She is extremely knowledgeable!"

Amy Olfert - Speech/Language Pathologist

"She showed the SLP group how she made her google classroom which was very helpful and inspiring. She always shares successful therapy ideas and fun information she finds to be effective and helpful with her students. She is always willing to help and mailed me protocols so I wouldn't run out when I was in a bind. She is truly such an asset to our SLP group and very wonderful to work with!"

Doug Jans - Special Education Teacher

“Doug and I have been co-teaching this year and he has been amazing to work with. Doug relates to our students so well and has the best dad jokes. He recently taught all the classes while I was out and did a wonderful job. Doug is always willing to work with others to develop the best plans for our students. He is calm and patient and listens to the students. He tries to find ways to help the students work through their struggles. He is a great co-worker and we are lucky to have him at Belview.”

Deecy Jesse – Administrative Assistant

“Deecy offered to help with the large delivery of PPE that SWWC received in January for all the schools in the region. We expected the delivery to be less than what was received in August -- but there were twice as many boxes! Deecy never complained and was extremely helpful! I don't know what I would have done without her. She is always willing to go above and beyond - and I am very appreciative of that!”

Noah Johnson - Technology Support Assistant

“Noah was recruited to help with the large delivery of PPE from the state for schools in the region. He was told there would be 8-9 pallets ... but there were 20! He didn't complain once - and he had the hardest job (unloading the pallets from the truck with the pallet jack). Without him, the pallets would still be on the truck! Thank you, Noah, for going above and beyond!”

Rosemari Kroll, Deb Wallert, Jenny Mann, Brigitte Flinn & Jill Rohman

“In a year filled with turbulence and anxiety, Rosemari, Deb, Jenny, Brigitte, and Jill remain strong advocates for their students. They show passion and care for each of their students and are an inspiration for educators who work with students who are deaf or hard of hearing.”

Kaye Squires - Speech/Language Pathologist

“Kaye always goes above and beyond to share her knowledge. I missed our networking meeting and she sent me step by step instructions on how to renew my teacher license this year and walked me through how to access my teacher verification letter on ASHA, something that would have taken me a lot of time to figure out on my own. She is such an asset as a coworker and as a friend and every interaction I have with her makes my day brighter!”

Emily McKee - Special Education Paraprofessional

“Emily works one on one with the same student every day. She starts each day with a positive attitude and is ready to take on any challenges that may come her way. Emily's student has come SO FAR this year, and she deserves all the credit! Way to go Emily!!”

Aimee Moeller - Special Education Paraprofessional

“Aimee works so hard with her student each day in the SUN program. She is always willing to find new material to teach life skills. She has so many ideas and makes work to follow them through! Keep up the great work Aimee!”

Aimee Moeller - Special Education Paraprofessional

“Aimee goes the extra mile for the student she works with and is always willing to help out in any way she can. She is a great asset to our ELC! Thanks for all you do Aimee!!”

Katie Schreier - Special Education Paraprofessional

“Katie works one on one with the same student each day. She works hard to collect data and works hard to make sure that her student is meeting his IEP goals. Keep up the great work Katie!”

Katie Schreier – Special Education Paraprofessional

“Katie does an AMAZING job with any student she works with! She is always willing to do what needs to be done and she does it with a smile. Thanks for all you do Katie at our ELC!!”

Robin Erickson - Special Education Paraprofessional

“Robin had a new challenge placed on her this year. She has worked hard to follow behavior plans and try new strategies to deescalate. Keep up the great work Robin!”

Michelle Niehus - ECSE Teacher

“Michelle does such a great job working with Part C families. She supports not only the child but the whole family. Thanks Michelle for all you do in ECSE.”

Laura Wurster - ECSE Teacher

“Laura is such a great asset to SWWC. She has jumped in with both feet and does amazing things for kids and families. Thanks Laura for all you do. Your passion for ECSE shines.”

Allison Krusselbrink - Occupational Therapist

“Allison is passionate and positive and a true blessing to each child and family she works with. She is always finding new ways to teach and is loved by her students. As a teammate, she is always helpful, kind and a hard-worker! I am thankful to have her on my team!”

Tina Kanthak - School Counselor

“Tina is incredible at what she does! She has such a big heart for students and staff here in Pipestone. She truly cares not only for the students, but also their families. She is a wonderful asset to ELC Pipestone and we are lucky to have her!!”

Miranda Lee - Special Education Paraprofessional

“Miranda has been very consistent this year, and puts a ton of effort into being great at the role of paraprofessional and getting better each day. Since the winter break, students have returned to in-person learning more and more. Miranda has been part of very stressful situations and shown that she has what it takes to handle the needs of our students with special needs. It takes teamwork and collaboration and Miranda always responds. Thank you for being part of our team.”

Kelsey Buysse - Occupational Therapist

“Kelsey is always willing to put in extra effort to provide great service to the districts and students that she serves. She holds great knowledge and is willing to share her expertise with others. SWWC is fortunate to have Kelsey as part of the team!”

Karen Dornbusch - Audiologist

“Karen provides tremendous service as SWWC's audiologist. Karen holds great experience and knowledge in the audiology field. She works hard to meet the needs of families and district teams. We are happy that Karen is a member of the SWWC team!”

Wilson Ebner - Teacher of the Visually Impaired

“Wilson is a valued member of the BVI team at SWWC. Wilson is passionate about her role, and always seeking opportunities to expand her knowledge and expertise. She provides great service to member districts, students, and families. Wilson does great work!”

Jackie Hickey - School Psychologist

“Jackie holds a tremendous amount of expertise not only directly related to her role as a school psychologist, but also the field of special education as whole. She is willing to share this knowledge with others, and is a strong advocate for students with exceptionalities. We are happy Jackie is a part of the SWWC team!”

Lynn Lundebrek - Special Education Teacher

“Lynn holds a great deal of knowledge and experience in the area of special education. Lynn is a strong advocate for the students that she works with, and works hard to provide meaningful opportunities for all students that she works with. I am glad that Lynn is a part of the SWWC team!”

TaiAnna Moe - Heartland Ranch School Teacher

“TaiAnna is a valued team member at SWWC. She works hard to address the unique needs of each of the students that she works with in her role. Her great attitude, experience, and knowledge make her a highly-effective teacher. Her work is greatly appreciated!”

Eric Ose - Heartland Ranch School Teacher

“Eric brings strong leadership, experience, and knowledge to his position at SWWC. He advocates for the students that he supports, and provides students with meaningful learning opportunities. Eric's work is greatly appreciated!!”

Michele Reese - Administrative Assistant

“Michele is a valued team member at SWWC. Michele brings a great deal of knowledge and experience to her position, and works hard to support the students and staff at the Heartland Ranch School. The positive attitude and skills she brings to her position are greatly appreciated!”

Channing Van Overbeke - ECSE Teacher

“Channing brings a great attitude and strong work ethic to her position at SWWC. She is willing to go above and beyond to provide strong learning opportunities for the districts and families that she serves. Channing's work at SWWC is greatly appreciated!”

Rebecca Paluch - Speech/Language Pathologist

“Rebecca is a highly-experienced and skilled SLP at SWWC. She is willing to share her knowledge and skill with others, and works tirelessly to provide service to member districts, students, and families. We are happy that Rebecca is a team member at SWWC!”

Bethany Lacek - Business Services Supervisor

“Bethany took time out of her day to assist with printing W-2s and stuffing a bunch of them for me, as I was busy with payroll. Thank you so much for your extra efforts, Bethany!!!”

Dan Bultsma - School Psychologist

“Dan has been a great resource to the Ortonville district! The district staff and admin team have come to rely on him for leadership in a variety of areas including special education evaluations, behavioral needs, pre-referral interventions, and PBIS support. He is a valued team member who is always willing to share his content knowledge and perspectives with others. On top of it all, Dan is approachable, friendly, and a genuine person!”

Heather Vyskocil - Autism Specialist

"Heather did a fantastic job when she recently provided an Autism training for a group of paraprofessionals. She was engaging, friendly, and delivered excellent content! Thanks for the great work, Heather!"

Nicole Redmann - School Psychologist

"Nicole has been a great asset to the Montevideo District SEAT! She has worked hard to develop positive relationships with staff within the district and this effort has helped her succeed in becoming a valued and trusted team member. Despite the many challenges resulting from the pandemic, Nicole has maintained her close working relationship with the district while working remotely. Great work!"

Andrea Anderson - Student Activities Coordinator

"Andrea has worked hard this year to make adaptations to the Student Activities programming. She just helped to host a virtual Young Artist conference and has organized the regional Spelling Bee to be virtual so that all students have an equal opportunity to participate. Andrea has done a lot to make sure that students still have great opportunities to participate in this year!"

Gail Polejewski - Career Development Coordinator

"Among the many great things that Gail contributes to the service cooperative, Gail has worked hard to figure out new technology that has enabled students throughout the region to continue to participate in Knowledge Bowl. Her dedication to ensuring that students continue to have opportunities to participate is evident. Thank you for helping arrange great opportunities for students, Gail!"